29th January 1934]

A.—(*a*) Yes. The matter is under consideration.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) In 1925 there were about 740 acres of waste land in the Peddur and Narasingapuram villages of which only about 79 acres were assigned on darkhast. A large extent is thus still available in the two villages.

(*f*) A statement [a] furnishing the information is appended.

(*g*) The policy of collecting a single grazing fee for cattle grazing within a single grazing unit has not been departed from. Formerly the unit was a range but subsequently it was changed into a division. Owing to the bifurcation of the old Vellore Forest division into two divisions from 1st December 1932, the ryots of one division are now required to purchase an additional permit for taking their cattle to the forests of another division as under existing orders a permit is valid only for one division.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"With reference to the answer to clause (*g*) may I know whether the Government are aware that the ryots who were grazing their cattle in a particular area before the bifurcation are now asked to pay double the amount for a permit to graze their cattle, in the same area?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"The whole question is under the consideration of the Government."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether the Government will please expedite the consideration, because this question has been pending for over eight months?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I shall do my best."

Ports

Closure of the ports of Thopputhurai and Adirampatnam in the Tanjore district.

* 494 *Q.*—Mr. G. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when and for what reasons the seaports at Thopputhurai and Adirampatnam in the Tanjore district were closed; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that before the ports were closed, paddy from some parts of the Tanjore district was being sent to Jaffna for sale through these ports?

A.—(*a*) The ports have not been closed; they are open to both foreign and coasting trade.

(*b*) Does not arise.

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 105 infra.

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"May I know whether Vöda Revu in the Guntur district was appealed to be converted as a foreign port?"

The hon. the President:—"The question does not arise out of this question."

Irrigation

Failure of water-supply in the Cumbum tank, Kurnool district.

* 495 *Q.*—S. M. K. Beyabani Sahib Bahadur:—Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Cumbum tank (Kurnool) was supplying water for double-crops till recent years but that it now hardly supplies water for one crop every year;

(*b*) what the reasons are for the failure of proper supply of water to this tank;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a number of small ponds have been constructed in recent years in the big basin of this tank resulting in the obstruction of water flowing into this tank; and

(*d*) what the number is of such ponds and who ordered their construction?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The following papers[a] are placed on the table:—

Chief Engineer's letter, dated 21st September 1931.

Proceedings of the Irrigation Development Board, No. 41, dated 13th October 1931.

Chief Engineer's letter, dated 22nd January 1932.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have not the information. The Collector reported in October 1931 that, during his inspection about that time, he found that in some places in the bed of the tank there was high ground near the bund and that there were many pools of water beyond them indicating that the ground there was very low, but that the surface drainage from the lands cultivated higher up in the tank-bed tended to fill up the shallows gradually. The construction of ponds in the tank-bed could not have been authorized. The Government will, however, make enquiries.

Preventive measures against submergence of Oobrapalayam, Kilanur.

* 496 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. Dharmalingam Pillai: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the result of the enquiry promised to be made in answer to question No. 316, dated 5th August 1921;

(*b*) whether the submerging of the Oobrapalayam of Kilanur and its suburbs during the floods of 1930 was due to the absence of a diversion bund; and

(*c*) what action the Government propose to take to prevent such recurrence of overflow?

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a Printed as Appendix on pages 105–107 infra.